

REMARKS

We have carefully considered the Advisory Action dated January 16, 2007 that repeats the rejection of pending claims 1-19. We have made clarifying amendments to various of the claims and added new claims 20 and 21 directed to a database management system. We have filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination.

In response to the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action, we point out that the current invention is a method and system of managing a computer information database that contains computer profile data for a plurality of computers. The system determines a multiple node tree structure of groups for the computers based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data, that is, primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to data that are contained in the database. For example, as discussed on page 6 of the application, the primary and secondary grouping criteria may correspond to collected computer profile data such as IP address data, windows domain data, and so forth. Accordingly, the inventive system and method operates to assign computers to groups based on profile data that are collected in the database.

The system and method operates using the data collected in the database by including in the database a mapping table that contains one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in the respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping and the secondary group-

ing criteria. The database mapping table further includes information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary grouping criteria specified in the table records are assigned. Thus, the system utilizes computer profile data collected in the database for a given computer to determine, using the database mapping table contained in the database, which group the computer belongs to for reporting purposes. Then, the system or method manipulates the database data to produce reports, with each report for a given group including therein summaries of the attributes of the computers in the groups that are on a subtree with the given group as its root. Accordingly, the reports are created using the computer profile data that are collected in the database.

In contrast to this database management system and method, the Zager reference describes a system that produces a model of a network or multiple interconnected networks. There is no teaching in the Zager reference of establishing a database mapping table that contains primary or primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data that are contained in the database, as set forth in the independent claims. While the Examiner contends that a database can be any collection of data, there is no teaching or suggestion in Zager of the database mapping table that is set forth in each of the pending independent claims. Accordingly, the Zager reference does not teach or suggest establishing and/or utilizing such a table, and does not anticipate the pending claims.

The McCormick reference does not supply the missing teaching of a database mapping table that contains primary and or secondary grouping criteria that correspond to

computer profile data collected in the database. Accordingly, a *combination* of Zager and McCormick does not teach a system and method of managing a database of computer profile data that includes establishing a database mapping table that contains primary grouping criteria or primary and secondary grouping criteria that are used to assign the computers to groups for reporting purposes. In addition, the combination does not teach or suggest manipulating the computer profile data collected in the database to produce reports that summarize the attributes of the computers in the groups. Further, the combination does not teach or suggest including in each report for a given group the attributes of the computers in the group and in the groups that are on a subtree with a given group as its root, as set forth in each of the independent claims.

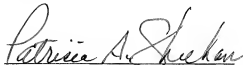
Indeed, there is no teaching or suggestion in the combination of Zager and McCormick of managing a database of computer profile data collected from computers. Accordingly, the combination does not teach or suggest the claimed system and method of manipulating the data contained in such a database in the manner set forth in the pending claims to group the computers and produce the recited reports.

We respectfully submit that the claims set forth above are in form for allowance. We ask that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone to conduct an interview before issuing an Office Action. The undersigned may be contacted at (617) 951-3045.

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No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Sheehan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia A. Sheehan

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